

# **TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE**

## **TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING**

December 15, 2021 7:00 PM

Town Council Chambers

Approved January 5, 2022

Councilors in Attendance: Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Council Vice-chair Helen Sanders, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Katanna Conley and Councilor Brian Ward.

Councilors excused: Councilor Jonathan Kiper

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier, Finance Director William Tappan and Wendy Chase Recording Secretary.

Council Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **AGENDA**

Councilor Ward made a motion to Approve *that the November 17, 2021, Council's previous action on the second reading and adoption of Council Resolution #2021/2022-14 be rescinded because the required public hearing was not properly noticed.*, which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

Town Manager Fournier explained that the public hearing for Resolution #2021/2022-14 was not properly noticed for the second reading on November 17th. Legal Counsel has advised that the Council rescind the second reading and approval of the Resolution on November 17, 2021 and hold a second reading of the Resolution this evening. The public hearing notice was properly noticed on December 7, 2021.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

### **PUBLIC FORUM**

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:07 PM.

There was no one from the Public present.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:08 PM.

### **PUBLIC HEARING**

#### **Resolution #2021/2022-14 - Authorizing the issuance of Refunding Bond**

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Hearing at 7:08 PM.

There was no one from the public present.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Hearing at 7:09 PM.

## **TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

### **December 1, 2021**

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *the December 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

## **REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

### **Town Manager's 12/15/2021 Report**

- Town Manager Fournier attended the Municipal Town City Managers Association Leadership Exchange in Portland ME last week. The topic of the exchange was on diversity, equity and inclusion. He said he is looking at our policies and procedures to make sure we are inclusive of the LGBTQ+ community. Chief Jordan is also looking at the Police Department's Policies because they differ from town policies. They are looking at what can be done as a town to support the LGBTQ+ community. He will send the Council a copy of the PowerPoint presentation. He said that 2 things that may come out of this, (1) to draft a Human Rights Ordinance and approved by the Council, and (2) establish a Human Rights Advisory Commission.
- **COVID-19 and Vaccination Update:** As of November 30, there are 44 active cases in the community and 877 cumulative cases. 6,076 individuals have received a new vaccine. The second pediatric clinic will be held at the elementary school on December 11. 57.3% are fully vaccinated but the number is not totally accurate - federal employees are not counted in the state totals as well as children receiving vaccines from their Doctors. The State is opening 4 additional vaccination centers. The Chalet in Berlin, The Common Man Event Room in Plymouth, the former NH State Liquor Store in Claremont and a site in Rochester - walk-ins only.
- **FY22 Budget Update:** Through the end of November 45% of the operating budget has been expended - lower than last year at this time. We are on par for revenues.
- **Arbor Park:** The Buildings and Grounds Supervisor, Director of Public Works and the Town Manager met with landscape architect Robbi Woodburn to discuss Arbor Park across the street from the Post Office. Ms. Woodburn did the original design and is willing to reexamine the current state of the park. They will remove the structures and create an open brick plaza to encourage people to go into the park.
- Town Manager Fournier wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

### **Department Reports November 2021**

Councilor Ward said he supports the idea of making the LGBTQ+ community more inclusive. He thinks it's a good idea for the town to be put on record that the LGBTQ+ is welcome in this town.

Chair Weinstein made the following comments:

- She is happy about the suggested improvements for Arbor Park to increase visibility of the park.
- She went through the Planning report and tallied up the number of units in town that are in process in one way or another. There are 100 units ranging from apartments to homes and condos that aren't necessarily workforce housing units, but still a lot of units.
- She said it is good to hear of the community policing and believes the Police Department is in good shape personnel-wise.
- The Recreation Department has filled the Assistant position recently vacated due to a promotion.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Councilor Blackstone reported on the December Planning Board Meeting - there was an application for renewal of an excavation permit, for the property located at 421 Wadleigh Falls Road. The Applicant requested a two year extension on top of the three year permit because business has been so slow the past couple of years. The Board granted the applicant's request and renewed the excavation permit for five years. The second application was for a Site Plan and Special Use Permit to permit a pool plastering company which was also approved.

Chair Weinstein said that the Energy and Environment Committee did not meet in December because they didn't have a quorum. There are three vacant positions and encouraged anyone interested to apply.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES IN THE 2ND READING**

#### **Resolution #2021/2022-19 - Withdrawal of Downtown TIF**

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-19 - Withdrawal of Downtown TIF*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Town Manager Fourier explained that this is the annual payment for the downtown reconstruction project in 2010.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

#### **Resolution #2021/2022-14 - Authorizing the issuance of Refunding Bond**

Councilor Ward made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-14 Authorizing the issuance of Refunding Bonds*, which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE**

## **TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS**

There were no Appointments to consider.

### **Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading**

#### **Resolution #2021/2022-20 - Sludge Thickening & Supplemental Carbon Upgrade Planning**

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Suspending the Rules to vote on the Resolution after the First Reading*, which was seconded by Councilor Ward.

Town Manager Fournier explained that he has requested the Council suspend the rules and vote on Resolution #2021/2022-20 so that a Warrant Article can be drafted and meet the Budget Hearing timelines for the March Town Election.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-20 - Sludge Thickening & Supplemental Carbon Upgrade Planning*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Chair Weinstein commented on the legalese of the Resolution and said that this will be how it appears on the Warrant on the March Ballot. She encouraged voters to attend the public hearings and ask questions, if they have any, for clarification.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

#### **Resolution #2021/2022-21 - FY2023 Default Budget**

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Suspending the Rules to vote on the Resolution after the First Reading*, which was seconded by Councilor Ward.

Town Manager Fournier explained that he has requested the Council suspend the rules and vote on Resolution #2021/2022-21 to meet the Municipal Budget Committee's meeting timeline.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 6-0-0.

Councilor Sanders made a motion to Approve *Resolution #2021/2022-22 - FY2023 Default Budget*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Town Manager Fournier explained that the Default Budget is last year's approved budget, minus any one-time expenditures, plus contractual obligations. The difference between the requested budget and the default budget is \$502,887.73.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 0-0-0.

#### **Resolution #2021/2022-22 - Amendment to the Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee Membership**

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-22 into the record.

Chair Weinstein commented that the Resolution should state that the new member is a non-voting member.

The correction will be made for the Second Reading,

#### **CORRESPONDENCE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL**

There was no correspondence.

#### **CLOSING COMMENTS BY TOWN COUNCILORS**

Councilor Conley asked to have the Energy & Environmental vacant positions posted on the Town's Facebook page. She encouraged people to get their booster vaccine. She said that the state system wasn't equipped to assist walk-in appointments for folks aged 16 and 17, so it's advised to call in advance to see if the system has been updated.

Chair Weinstein commented on the Schanda Park plans for the Living Shoreline the Riverfront Advisory Committee is working on and said it's great to see that moving forward.

Chair Weinstein wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

#### **NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 5, 2021**

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 7:50 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,  
Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary